

METHOD FOR ESTIMATING BIT-ERROR-RATIOS
WITHIN AN OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method for estimating the bit-error-ratio (BER) for a segment or whole of an optical communications network by measuring the actual distribution of bits (1s and 0s) in a transmitted data set as a function of threshold value, and directly estimating the BER at an optimal threshold value using a Q -fitting algorithm.